



Schools Handout # 5

Human & Hope Association



HISTORY

- Human and Hope Association was founded at a pagoda in Siem Reap in March 2011. Another NGO had recently left the premises, leaving an absence of English education in the village
- A group of local villagers got together and decided to start an English school for two hours each evening with volunteer teachers
- In 2012 an Australian living in Siem Reap was inspired to see Cambodians helping Cambodians, so she joined the team and helped them build up Human and Hope Association into a professionally run organisation

MISSION

- Human and Hope Association's mission is 'To empower Cambodians to create sustainable futures for themselves'



VALUES

- Empowerment - we aim to empower people to create long-term change for themselves, and our community.
- Sustainability - we believe in the importance of ensuring that positive change is long-lasting and intergenerational; a long-term solution to poverty.
- Equality - we do not discriminate on any basis, including age, gender or social status. We believe everyone is deserving of opportunities and support.
- Integrity - we believe in doing what is right even when it is difficult, and hope to promote this value to our students and community.
- Transformation - we hope to foster positive growth for individuals as well as promote social change in our community and Cambodia generally.

PROJECTS

EDUCATION

- **English classes** are aimed at children to get them learning the basics
- **Living values** classes are held every Friday instead of English and aim to improve our student's attitude and behaviour
- **Khmer class** helps illiterate children learn their native language so they can catch up at public school
- **Preschool class** is for five year olds to learn Khmer language and have a good start to their life of education
- **Art class** is held once a week to promote creativity
- **Library** is open daily so the students can improve their knowledge on all sorts of topics
- **Staff development** workshops are run every Sunday as we believe that to develop our community we need to develop our staff



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- **Sewing program** aims to provide our most marginalised villagers with a skill so they can earn a stable income
- **Home sewing business** sees our most talented students employed to make products for us at their homes

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- **Microfinance program** provides small business loans to villagers who don't have what is necessary to borrow from a bank
- **Family farm program** teaches chemical-free farming to villagers over four months so they can grow vegetable for sale and personal use
- **University scholarship program** assists staff who come from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue further education
- **Community workshops** address social issues so our community can be more aware of the law, their rights and responsibilities
- **Community outreach program** ensures that our most marginalised villagers receive the support and advice they need





STORIES

*SOPHEAK

*Sopheak is thirteen years old. He and his eight-year-old sister, *Srey, had never been to school. Our Education Manager noticed them on the street one day, and enrolled Sopheak and Srey in our English program.

Identifying that they will not have a good future unless they learn Khmer, we started daily Khmer classes for Sopheak and Srey, and four other village children who have never been to school. They were enrolled in Public School in November 2014 along with their younger brother. Sopheak came first in his class at public school and was able to skip a grade, and Srey and her younger brother came in the top ten! For three children who had never studied before, they are certainly naturals! These siblings continue to study at Human and Hope Association. **Name has been changed*

CHHORVEAN

Our microfinance borrower, Chhorvean, has a store near Human and Hope Association that sells beverages, rice and food. She took out a microfinance loan as she didn't have money to buy rice to sell due to villagers owing her money. Rice is her best seller and makes the best profit out of all the commodities in her store.

She took out a \$200USD loan and began repaying weekly over 40 weeks. She purchases eight bags of rice with our loan so she could continue to sell and use the profit to purchase more beverages. Chhorvean, whose son studies English with us, also learnt about money management and child protection, empowering her with knowledge about budgeting, saving money and child's rights and abuse. After learning about money management, Chhorvean began saving \$1.25USD each week with us which she will then get back after repaying her loan. She also began saving money to buy a washing machine and improve her productivity at home so she can concentrate on her business and family.

Chhorvean says, *"HHA microfinance helped me to have the money to buy rice and buy more beverages to sell and I know how to save money. The repayment was really easy for me because it was not much money each week."*



Want to know more about our community members? Click on the links below to watch three inspiring stories!

[Sophy's story](#)

[Chomrong's story](#)

[Saney's story](#)



*SELA

Sela began studying in preschool when we launched the program in April 2013. A shy four-year old, he was one of six children who came from extreme poverty. As time went by, Sela grew into a confident, extremely intelligent child. He stayed at HHA a full day and spent countless hours in the library putting together complicated puzzles and reading books. He began studying in English classes too, and was one of the top performing students in his class.

In October 2015 Sela graduated preschool and was enrolled in public school. We were finally able to convince two of his siblings to study with us, so they take him on their bicycle on the 8km round journey to and from HHA each day.

Sela studies Khmer language with us and has moved up in English class. His attitude and behaviour has improved and he continues to thrive. **Name has been changed*

SOPHEA

Sophea is 50 years old. She is illiterate and does not possess a skill so she can work. We recruited her for our family farm trial, teaching her about how to grow vegetables on her land without using chemicals. Although she was hesitant to learn, she completed the program.

Sophea now earns money by selling her vegetables and has a stable source of income. Her family eats some of the vegetables she grows, too. She is happy that she can utilise the land she owns and can earn money without too much effort.



*SOKOUNG

*Sokoung attended our domestic violence workshop after his wife told us he often used a sling shot against her. Although reluctant at first, he understands that what he was doing wasn't right.

Sokoung has reduced his drinking as a result of our domestic violence workshop and doesn't use

violence against his wife anymore. They have a better relationship and are setting a much better example for their four children who study at Human and Hope Association. **Name has been changed*

